

SAUDI ARABIA | IN FOCUS

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SAUDI ARABIA

Royal Court announces the death of Crown Prince Sultan

The Royal Court issued a statement on Oct. 22 announcing the death of Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz, who passed away in New York following a prolonged illness. Funeral prayers were performed at the Imam Turki bin Abdullah Mosque in Riyadh on Oct. 25.

Dignitaries from around the world converged upon the Kingdom last week to pay their respects. U.S. Vice President Joe Biden arrived in Riyadh on Oct. 27, leading a delegation that included Sen. John McCain, former Defense Secretary William Cohen, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, CIA Director David Petraeus, Commander of U.S. Central Command Gen. James Mattis and U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia James Smith. The delegation members met with senior Saudi officials and offered their condolences to members of the royal family on behalf of U.S. President Barack Obama and the American people.

In Washington, hundreds of people, including government officials and foreign ambassadors, came to the Saudi Embassy during the three-day mourning period to offer their condolences and sign the condolence book for Crown Prince Sultan.

Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz appointed new Crown Prince

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz issued a royal decree on Oct. 27 appointing Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz as Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior. Since his appointment, Crown Prince Nayef has been the recipient of well-wishes from around the world. In a statement released on Oct. 28 by the White House Press Office, President Barack Obama said, "I congratulate King Abdullah and the Saudi people on the selection of Prince Nayef as Crown Prince and Deputy Premier of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Crown Prince Nayef has served his nation with dedication and distinction for more than 35 years as Minister of Interior, and as Second Deputy Premier since 2009. We in the United States know and respect him for his strong commitment to combating terrorism and supporting regional peace and security." The president added, "The United States looks forward to continuing our close partnership with Crown Prince Nayef in his new capacity as we strengthen the deep and longstanding friendship between the United States and Saudi Arabia."

Saudi Arabia ranks first regionally in doing business

The Kingdom maintained its top ranking among Middle Eastern and North African nations regarding ease of doing business, according to the annual report of the

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World Bank Group and the International Finance Corporation, which was released on Oct. 20 in Washington. The 2012 report ranked the Kingdom the 12th easiest place for commercial transactions out of 187 nations. The high rating is a result of improvements introduced by the Kingdom that have streamlined governmental procedures and promoted entrepreneurship.

EMBASSY ACTIVITIES

Minister of Justice meets with Saudi students in Washington

Minister of Justice Dr. Mohammed Al-Eissa met with a group of Saudi students on scholarship in the United States at the Saudi Cultural Attaché Office in Washington on Oct. 29. He advised the students to adhere to their religion, which promotes the values of moderation. The meeting was attended by Saudi Ambassador to the U. S. Adel Al-Jubeir and Cultural Attaché to the U.S. Dr. Mohammed Al-Eissa.

FOREIGN AID

Kingdom donates \$900,000 worth of dates to WFP

The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) welcomed a donation of dates worth \$900,000 from the Kingdom on Oct. 18. The gift will be a part of meals provided to school children in Ethiopia through the Food-for-Education program. "This contribution is an example of Saudi Arabia's pledge to alleviate the suffering of people around the world," said Ambassador Al-Jubeir. "Saudi Arabia is committed to supporting those in need of humanitarian aid." Last year, the Kingdom donated more than \$3.6 million worth of assistance to the WFP, a third of which went toward the Food-for-Education program.

Saudi Campaign undertakes potable water project in Somalia

Crown Prince Nayef, who is the Supervisor of the Saudi Campaign for the Relief of the Somali People, issued a directive on Oct. 18 approving an emergency project to provide potable water for Somalia. The project includes the digging of 150 wells in 11 different regions of the country to provide clean water for more than 3.6 million people affected by famine and drought. Meanwhile, the last batch of the campaign's aid arrived in Mogadishu on Oct. 26. The delivery included 5,000 tons of relief supplies, consisting of dates and other foodstuffs, mattresses, blankets, tents and medical supplies.

Kingdom to provide \$50 million to Turkey

King Abdullah has issued directives to provide \$50 million in assistance to Turkey to counter the effects of the earthquake that hit eastern Turkey on Oct. 23.

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Saudi Arabia Announces New Crown Prince

WASHINGTON [October 28, 2011] -- Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz issued a royal decree on Thursday appointing Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz as Crown Prince and Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior.

Prior to the announcement, King Abdullah held a meeting with the Allegiance-Pledge Commission, which was established as part of a new law of succession announced in 2006 to formalize the royal succession and to ensure a smooth transfer of power.

Prince Nayef began his political career as Deputy Governor, and later Governor, of Riyadh Province during the lifetime of his father, King Abdulaziz. Prince Nayef was appointed Deputy Minister of Interior in 1970, and then in 1974, he became Deputy Minister of Interior with the rank of Minister. In 1975, Prince Nayef was appointed Minister of State for Internal Affairs, and, later in the same year, he was named Minister of Interior, a position he will continue to serve. In 2009, King Abdullah appointed Prince Nayef Second Deputy Premier.

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